ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Hays

February 5, 2022

Honourable Marco Mendicino
Minister of Public Safety
Government of Canada
Ottawa ON, K1A 0A8

Honourable Bill Blair
Minister of Emergency Preparedness
Government of Canada
Ottawa ON, K1A 0P8

Dear Minister Mendicino and Minister Blair,

As you are aware, Alberta is currently experiencing significant issues with the free movement of vehicles and supplies in southern Alberta with direct impacts to our largest border crossing with the United States. Despite our best efforts to resolve this ongoing issue, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have exhausted all local and regional options to alleviate the week-long service disruptions at this important international border.

The RCMP, along with local and provincial officials, have been working closely in an attempt to persuade the demonstration participants to remove their vehicles but have been unsuccessful. In addition, as a result of private industry concerns over negative consequences, the RCMP have been unable to secure the appropriate heavy duty equipment required to remove vehicles and other items such as trailers and tractors from the area. Attempts to procure these services with providers from across the Western provinces and the United States have failed.

In order to ensure a return of free movement of people, vehicles and goods and services through this pivotal location, we are seeking federal assistance in removing obstructions from the highway. The RCMP, and other partner law enforcement agencies, will ensure that the locations are secured and will remove demonstrators and bystanders from the area prior to the removal of vehicles and equipment, in order to mitigate risks of potential conflict.

To support this approach, I am requesting federal assistance that includes the provision of equipment and personnel to move approximately 70 semi-tractor trailers and approximately 75 personal and recreational vehicles from the area.

As this complex and dynamic situation continues to impede the free and safe movement of not only Albertans, but also of critical goods and services vital to both the Canadian and American economy, we are looking to the Government of Canada for assistance. I and my colleague, the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, or our respective staff members, are available to discuss these requirements, but am hopeful that Alberta's request will be received favourably and responded to promptly.

Sincerely,

Ric McIver
Minister of Municipal Affairs

cc: Honourable Sonya Savage, Acting Minister of Justice and Solicitor General

320 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada Telephone 780-427-3744 Fax 780-422-9550

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